

## ABSTRACT

A sheet sorting apparatus that easily sorts sheets into groups, and makes these groups readily distinguishable on a single output tray is disclosed. According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided a sheet sorting apparatus located at the sheet outlet location of an image processing device, the sheet sorting apparatus having marker attaching means for attaching markers at a certain position on the output sheets. The marker attaching means comprise of a tape feeding mechanism in which the tape has an adhesive surface along one side edge, a cutter for the end of the tape to make a marker, guides to position the marker in the proper location on the output sheet, a marker attaching roller, and a feeder for feeding the sheet and marker together. The feeder presses the marker against the sheet to attach it. The advantages of this invention include the markers for separating the groups being attached to the sheets, so that they will not fall out if the sheets are removed from the output tray. Also, there is no pause in feeding the sheets to add markers between the groups, so there is no time loss.

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